

Claims Pending and Amended after Fourth Office Action

1. (cancelled)
2. (cancelled)
3. (cancelled)
4. (cancelled)

5. (previously amended) A procedure for opening a coronary artery having a nominal opening size adjacent a target having at least a partial occlusion thereof, comprising the steps of:

- a. determining an artery structure nominal opening size;
- b. providing a preformed hoop composed of a primary coil of material having one of a rounded and a ball end said primary coil being wound to form a secondary coil having an outer diameter matching said nominal opening size, and instilling memory retaining properties into said preformed hoop to urge said material into said double coil;
- c. providing a cylindrical delivery means for constraining said secondary coil into a linear configuration;
- d. inserting said hoop and said delivery means into an artery at said target site having an unsupported aperture size less than said nominal opening size; and
- e. removing said delivery means whereby said hoop remains in said artery to support said artery in an open position wherein said secondary coil outer diameter is larger than said target site unsupported aperture size and said

22 secondary coil is configured to urge said target site  
23 aperture to said nominal opening size.

1 6.(previously amended) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said  
2 deliver means is a rod arranged to fit within said primary coil.

1 7.(previously amended) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said  
2 delivery means is a delivery tube arranged to fit over said primary  
3 coil.

1 8.(previously amended) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said step  
2 of inserting comprises the step of inserting said delivery means  
3 into a coronary artery.

9. (cancelled)

10.(cancelled)

11.(cancelled)

12.(cancelled)

13.(cancelled)

14.(cancelled)

1 15.(presently amended) The procedure of claim 5 wherein said step  
2 of providing a preformed hoop includes the step of providing a  
3 longitudinal open space within and contiguous with sections of said  
4 preformed hoop having a second coil longitudinal loop spacing less  
5 than said open space, said open space being of sufficient size to

6 permit fluid flow into an artery side branch.

1 16.(previously presented) The procedure of claim 15, further  
2 including the step of orienting said open space within said artery  
3 to align said open space with said artery side branch.

1 17.(cancelled)

1 18.(cancelled)

1 19.(new) The procedure of claim 5, before the step of inserting,  
2 further including the step of dilating said target site.